



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

**FPB POLICY  
P-09-10**

**CONTAINERS ALLOWED FOR STORAGE OF  
FLAMMABLE AND COMBUSTIBLE LIQUIDS**

***I. PURPOSE***

This policy is intended to clarify the types of containers allowed for the storage of Class I flammable liquids and the maximum allowable container size.

***II. SCOPE***

This policy applies to all Class I flammable liquids stored or used in containers of 60 gallons or less.

***III. DEFINITIONS***

**CONTAINER:** is a vessel of 60 gallons or less used for transporting or storing hazardous materials.

***IV. REQUIREMENTS***

The following table provides the type of container and the maximum allowable container size for storage of Class I flammable liquids.

| TYPE   | FLAMMABLE LIQUIDS |                 |                 | COMBUSTIBLE LIQUIDS |                |
|--|-------------------|-----------------|-----------------|---------------------|----------------|
|  | IA                | IB              | IC              | II                  | III            |
| Glass  | 0.5 L             | 1 L             | 5 L (1.3 gal)   | 5 L (1.3 gal)       | 20 L (5.3 gal) |
| Metal (other than drums) or approved plastic           | 5 L (1.3 gal)     | 20 L (5.3 gal)  | 20 L (5.3 gal)  | 20 L (5.3 gal)      | 20 L (5.3 gal) |
| Safety Cans  | 10 L (2.6 gal)    | 20 L (5.3 gal)  | 20 L (5.3 gal)  | 20 L (5.3 gal)      | 20 L (5.3 gal) |
| Polyethylene UN 1H1, or as authorized by DOT exemption | 5 L (1.3 gal)     | 20 L (5.3 gal)* | 20 L (5.3 gal)* | NA                  | NA             |

*\* For Class IB and IC water-miscible liquids, the maximum allowable size of plastic containers is 60 gals.  
See NFPA 30, Section 9.4.3.1*

**Fire Prevention Bureau**

Fire-Rescue Department • 1010 Second Avenue, Suite 300 • San Diego, CA 92101-4903  
Tel (619) 533-4400 Fax 544-6806

As noted in the above table the approved maximum size glass container with Class I-B flammable liquids is 1-Liter.

- Exceptions:

1. Glass containers greater than 1-Liter (maximum 4-Liters) may be used if they are protected by a fully encapsulated bottle jacket/caddy or if containers are plastic safety-coated.
2. The 4-Liter glass and a DOT approved 4-Liter plastic containers from the chemical manufacturer can be used for storage of flammables if they are stored in an approved flammable liquid cabinet when not in use.

Containers shall be designed and constructed in accordance with approved standards. San Diego Fire-Rescue will allow the use of Class I flammable liquids in non-listed or non-approved plastic containers limited to a capacity of less than or equal to 500 milliliters for use in laboratory operations. These quantities of Class I flammable liquids in non-approved plastic containers that are not stored in approved flammable liquid cabinets will be limited to the amount allowed for in-use open.

Promulgated by: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Rev. 11/10/09